

The Eastern Region is the largest in the country with 56 chapters, and it continues to provide innovative programming in the new millennium. Because of the dedication of these individuals working with the region, the Eastern chapters have provided over 500,000 meals to families in need in the year 2014 to 2015.

It is a job well done by the Eastern Region of Jack and Jill of America. We thank them for their support, their help, and their commitment to America.

STOP IMPEACHMENT SHAM

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, after several weeks in the secrecy of the basement of this building, the impeachment process has moved upstairs, and it doesn't look a whole lot better in the light of day.

Chairman SCHIFF has made it pretty much a one-man show and continues to deny a due process that you would normally see in a court of law, with bipartisan input. In other modern impeachment examples, you have seen input from both sides. We are not seeing that here. We have this really ugly display going on of a partisan witch hunt against President Trump.

Nothing has changed by coming upstairs. It doesn't look any better under the light of the cameras. The star witnesses brought today, indeed, are not stars at all. They weren't even present on the call between the President of the United States and the Ukrainian President.

Indeed, what we have is a sham. It needs to stop because it is dividing our country and dividing our ability to get anything accomplished in this place for the American people.

STOP PRACTICE OF TELE-ABORTION

(Mr. WRIGHT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WRIGHT. Madam Speaker, the right to terminate a pregnancy has become framed as a woman's health issue, and yet, more and more voices argue in favor of methods of abortion that place a woman's health at great risk, such as tele-abortion, a means of killing an unborn child by acquiring abortion drugs and then being coached, through telemedicine, on how to use them.

Simple, except the woman taking the drugs isn't in a medical facility. No medical personnel are present. If the drugs don't work as planned, and the baby is not stillborn, it may still end up in a dumpster, and the mother may end up in an emergency room.

The obvious danger is why I have filed the Tele-Abortion Prevention Act, H.R. 4935. This is commonsense legisla-

tion, even more so when one considers an FDA report that states that there have been more than 4,000 cases of serious adverse events, including more than 1,000 that required hospitalization.

If the woman's health argument is really more than subterfuge that puts dressing on a tragedy, please join me in passing H.R. 4935, the Tele-Abortion Prevention Act.

DREAMERS ARE AMERICANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. KIRKPATRICK). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials in the RECORD on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA).

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about an important issue affecting our country, and that is Dreamers, many of whom are in Washington this week, fighting for their lives in front of the United States Supreme Court.

Dreamers are Americans just like you and me, and they should be treated as such. When the Obama administration established the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, these were infants from 6 months to 6 years of age and anywhere in between. These Dreamers came here through no choice of their own, but for them, this is the only country they have ever known.

They were qualified and granted, under this program enacted by the Obama administration, to be protected from deportation and, thus, granted a legal status.

Since then, these young people have made immense contributions to our society every day. They are our friends. They are our neighbors.

But they have been betrayed by this administration's cruel policies toward migrant communities, including the efforts to repeal the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, otherwise known as DACA, and to dismantle the advance parole initiative, which was a part of this effort and allows Dreamers to visit their loved ones in the event that there is a wedding, a funeral, and some other critical moments in their lives with their families in the country that they originally came from.

These cruel and shameless policies have thrown the lives of these people, most of them young, into chaos. They live in fear every day, fear to see if they will be removed, deported from

the only home that they have ever known, from the only country they really have ever known.

Living with this uncertainty is not right. It is unfair, and it is unjust. It is not the American way.

For 243 years, America has been a beacon of shining light for immigrants around the world. In this case, we made promises to protect Dreamers. If the Supreme Court rescinds these protections, I believe Congress must keep fighting. I will keep fighting.

I know these Dreamers. I have visited with them. They are in my schools, in the community colleges, and in the State universities.

□ 1745

And so I want them to know, I want you to know because these Dreamers reflect and represent what? The American Dream.

What is the American Dream? The American Dream is about immigrants past and immigrants present, and it is the embodiment of what Dreamers are a part of.

So I ask my colleagues to join with us this afternoon in standing up and speaking out for those Dreamers.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, I yield to my colleague from California (Mr. VARGAS).

Mr. VARGAS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York for yielding.

I rise today on behalf of hundreds of thousands of Dreamers.

Yesterday, the Supreme Court heard arguments over the future of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or, as you heard, DACA recipients. This decision will determine whether nearly 800,000 Dreamers will lose their legal protections to live and work in the United States.

The average DACA recipient came to the U.S. as a young child and has called our country their home for nearly 20 years. Denying their legal rights or rescinding the promise made to them 7 years ago would be immoral and wrong. They are students, teachers, first responders, entrepreneurs, and community organizers who make our country stronger and contribute to it every day.

Approximately 27,000 DACA recipients are currently employed as healthcare workers and support staff. Rescinding DACA would be a direct threat to the public health, as we heard from our colleague, Dr. RUIZ. We rely on these people. So, at this moment, it would be a disaster to not give them the legal status they need to remain in our country.

DACA recipients and their households hold a combined \$24.1 billion in spending power each year. In addition, DACA recipients boost Social Security and Medicare through payroll taxes.

Many DACA recipients have completed high school, entered 4-year colleges and universities, and graduated. College enrollment rates have dramatically increased for DACA-eligible individuals, and completion rates have skyrocketed.

Dreamers are our brothers and our sisters and our neighbors. They don't know any other country as home. They were brought here as children and, many times, as infants.

They built their lives here since they were little kids. They grew up here in America learning our history and loving and celebrating our culture and freedoms, just like any other American.

They work, they pay taxes, and, like millions before, they dream of serving, too. Turning our backs on them is against our American values.

The choice is clear: We must keep our promise to Dreamers. We must protect the dream and uphold DACA in the highest court of the land.

We heard here very recently from a friend on the other side how we should open our hearts this holiday season to children who need adoption, and he is correct. At the same time, we should open our hearts to these children who came here, oftentimes, when they were infants—no fault of their own; their parents brought them here. They grew up in our country. In fact, many of them thought they were American citizens until they became older.

Madam Speaker, in the words of our great colleague who recently passed, Elijah Cummings: We are better than this. We are better than deporting these children who have never known another country other than our own. We are better than this, and hopefully the Supreme Court is better than this.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, I yield to my colleague from California (Mr. CORREA).

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I want to correct the record about Dreamers, who they are in the United States.

I represent central Orange County, home to the largest number of Dreamers in the United States. I will talk a little bit about a few of the Dreamers in my district.

The first one, Jose Angel Garibay, who lived in my district in Santa Ana, enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. Jose was deployed to Iraq, and in 2003 he was killed at the age of 21. Jose was the first servicemember from Orange County to make the ultimate sacrifice.

Jose Angel Garibay, rest in peace.

Jose is a Dreamer.

Madam Speaker, I want to correct the record about the Dreamers, who they are.

Police officer Germain Martinez Garcia grew up in southern Illinois. As an intern, his hard work and positive attitude set him apart and earned him a slot in the local academy. Germain Martinez Garcia is a valued member of his team and his department. In the words of his police chief: "He is part of this community. He's a good citizen. He's a good person. We need him."

Germain Martinez, a Dreamer.

Madam Speaker, I want to correct the record about who Dreamers are. They are lawyers.

Cesar Vargas grew up in Staten Island in New York. He has served our Nation in the Army. After law school, Cesar passed the New York bar on his first try in 2011. Then he applied for admission to the New York bar, but due to his immigration status, he was denied. It would take him 5 more years before Cesar became the first Dreamer admitted to the New York State bar.

Cesar Vargas, he is a Dreamer.

Madam Speaker, I want to correct the record about Dreamers. They are American soldiers.

John grew up in southern California. John joined the U.S. Army, and on March 18 of last year, he shipped out to basic training. John wants nothing more than to defend our country.

John is a warrior and a patriot. John is a Dreamer. John, U.S. Army.

Madam Speaker, I want to correct the record about Dreamers and who they are: American soldiers.

James grew up in southern California. James enlisted in the United States Army. James' goal is to protect the United States of America because he loves this country. James needs DACA reform to ensure that he can come home after being deployed to defend our Nation.

James is a Dreamer. James is part of the U.S. Army.

Madam Speaker, I want to correct the record about who Dreamers are. They are Harvard graduates.

Gloria Montiel grew up in the heart of my district in Santa Ana. Gloria is the first student from Santa Ana High School to be accepted to Harvard. Gloria was the first undocumented student to receive a master's degree from Harvard. Gloria was the first undocumented Ph.D. candidate from Claremont Graduate University.

Gloria Montiel is a Dreamer.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, as the whip of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, I am pleased to lead this monthly Special Order hour. It comes at a critical time in America, a critical time for our Nation and for the communities that we represent.

Yesterday morning, Madam Speaker, you may know that the Supreme Court heard a case. They heard arguments on Dreamers. This decision will determine the lives of nearly 1 million young Americans in the Supreme Court of the United States, a million people who were brought here at a very early age, at a very young age, and have known no other country but the United States of America.

We have come to call them Dreamers because they symbolize, in a quintessential way, what the American Dream stands for. They derived the name from bipartisan legislation introduced in 2001 by none other than the former Republican president pro tempore of the Senate, Orrin Hatch of the State of Utah and DICK DURBIN of the State of Illinois.

That legislation, which was reintroduced multiple times, would have granted residency status to immi-

grants who came here as minors, assuming they had no criminal record and had a high school diploma; and they could become permanent residents if they got a college degree or served honorably in the U.S. military.

This proposal was seen as a critical component of any comprehensive immigration reform and for many was considered a low-hanging fruit, the easiest thing we could all agree on, both sides of the aisle. Opinion polling of the American people bore that out. In fact, we have seen poll after poll after poll indicate that over 80 percent of the American people, whether in red States or blue States, support Dreamers.

In 2013, after the House Republican majority flat-out refused to even consider an overwhelmingly bipartisan comprehensive immigration package painstakingly negotiated, amended, and, finally, approved by the Senate on a healthy bipartisan vote, President Obama looked at what his options were, and he saw the very last deal was this low-hanging fruit.

He used his administrative discretion in enforcing immigration laws, a long-standing authority used by Presidents on both sides of the aisle, to create the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or the DACA program.

While the program couldn't provide permanent legal certainty, it did, essentially, tell those who have been eligible under the DREAM Act that, if they came forward and followed various steps to ensure they met conditions similar to those in the DREAM Act, they would be granted relief from deportation and issued documents allowing them to remain and work legally in the United States.

In essence, the Dreamers came forward and shared their personal information—their address, their date of birth—they shared that with us, the government. They were forward. They were transparent in their approach to share vital, personal, and confidential information with the government.

The DACA program and the DREAM Act were so popular and so important because they are an example of who we are and aspire to be as a nation, a nation of immigrants, and it honors our core principles such as basic fairness, compassion, and common sense.

What is more, it is in our national interest to keep DACA recipients here.

Between 2017 and 2027, DACA beneficiaries are projected to contribute \$460 billion to the national GDP. They pay \$5.7 billion in Federal taxes and \$3.1 billion in State and local taxes, annually.

Researchers estimate ending DACA will cost the United States economy anywhere from \$283 billion to \$460 billion over the next 10 years.

Our Nation also sees benefits from the fact that many DACA recipients are highly educated and skilled workers. Ninety-six percent of DACA recipients are enrolled in school, and 75 percent are pursuing a bachelor's degree or higher.

27,000 DACA recipients are currently employed as healthcare workers and support staff. They are an integral part of the healthcare industry across America.

So it stands to reason that rescinding DACA would do nothing but hurt the economy, drain our businesses of skilled and educated workers, and threaten our public health system.

The reason the current case is making its way through the courts is precisely because the Trump administration has been unable to substantiate their reasoning for terminating the program.

President Trump, himself, has said on numerous occasions that he does not want to deport DACA recipients or so he says. In fact, two lower Federal courts have placed injunctions in the efforts to eliminate the DACA program.

So there are a few things I believe we must do. Most obviously—though, admittedly, unlikely—if the administration really does not want to send DACA recipients to their place, a place that they have never known, it should rescind its order or find other administrative means to give them certainty.

But even more importantly, Madam Speaker, is that we change the law to provide permanent certainty for these young Americans.

And they are truly Americans: They feel American; they have been here for many years; and many of them, with the exception of having their green card, are very much part of the American fabric.

□ 1800

I was proud to vote for the Dream and Promise Act not too long ago when it passed here in the House. And as the only formerly undocumented immigrant in Congress, I was honored, deeply honored to preside over its passage. It is now on the Senate to act.

We heard the arguments yesterday in the Supreme Court. We are hopeful that the Court will be reasonable and understand that these young people have nothing but to give their sweat and their work, their abilities to our Nation.

Based on the vote just 6 years ago, it is clear that H.R. 6 would pass if the majority leader in the Senate, MITCH MCCONNELL, brought it to a vote.

This legislation, a similar legislation, a lot more complex, more comprehensive in scope, was passed not too long ago in the Senate in a bipartisan way.

In the meantime, Democrats in the House, we must continue to consider other legislation that will help Dreamers. For example, the Education and Labor Committee recently passed a sweeping reform of our higher education programs, the College Affordability Act. That bill would make college more affordable and accessible to Dreamers by making them eligible for financial aid, Pell Grants, and other kinds of financial assistance.

Besides, if we are encouraging Dreamers to complete their education in order to grant them legal status, the least we can do is help them afford the education.

There are numerous reasons to keep Dreamers here and give them the certainty they need to succeed, the most basic being that we have always been, and will continue to be, a Nation of immigrants.

For the rest of this special hour, you will hear from other colleagues in the Congressional Hispanic Caucus who will share their stories about why this is critically important for the future of America. In fact, I am compelled to tell you that this is a fight for the soul of America. But here I yield to them.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank the many groups who continue to serve our constituents through their advocacy, their legal assistance, their organizational skills, and their moral support, groups like UnidosUS, United We Dream, the Hispanic Federation, Make the Road New York, faith-based groups, labor unions, and countless others. They are all shining examples of what America stands for, and we could not be successful in our work inside the Capitol without the work that they do outside of the Capitol.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOTO), my colleague.

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT), my dear friend, for yielding.

You know, we had a rally a while ago where I got to hear my dear friend from New York talk about, as he was addressing Dreamers, that they were the tears of their grandparents, they were the dreams of their parents, and how generations led up to the moment where their children can experience the American Dream. And it really got to me.

It was an emotional moment for all of us, thinking about that story that all of our families, other than our Native Americans, experienced at one time or another, that someone had to make a choice, someone had to cross an ocean or a desert, or so many other barriers to get here to the United States.

You know, as we look at what the Supreme Court, yesterday having their oral arguments, is set to rule upon, it is pretty clear that terminating DACA would not be in the best interests of the Sunshine State. It is pretty clear that ending DACA would be bad for Florida, President Trump's new home State.

When you look back, our State passed in a bipartisan fashion in the Florida legislature when I was there in-state tuition for Dreamers. We also passed a bill that I filed and was able to pass to admit Dreamers to the Florida Bar, all defined as DACA recipients.

So in a State that many people refer to as purple, being Democrats and Republicans going back and forth on close

issues and in close elections, we came together to protect our Dreamers.

So I hope as the Trump administration is examining their arguments and working before the Supreme Court, that they recognize that this wouldn't serve in Florida's best interests.

In Florida, we have over 80,000 Dreamers, 30,000 of whom were DACA recipients. I wanted to spend a few minutes tonight talking about their stories, about my constituents.

The first Dreamer I would like to speak about, a DACA recipient, is Herman Younger, otherwise known as Herman to us affectionately.

Herman Younger grew up in the city of Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Wanting to give him and his sister a better life, his family decided to migrate to Miami, Florida, in 2002.

During this time, his parents instilled in him a respect and curiosity for the law. This led him to join the Miami-Dade Police Explorers while in high school.

In 2012, Herman applied for DACA, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, which allowed him to pursue educational opportunities post high school.

After graduating, he moved to Gainesville, Florida, where he studied political science at the University of Florida with a focus on ethics and moral law.

During this time at UF, he joined the College Democrats; prelaw fraternity, Phi Alpha Delta; and Assembly for Action, a conference that aims to build community relations with local organizations.

During his junior year, Herman interned for our office in D.C., where he helped draft a bill I introduced earlier this year, the Artificial Intelligence JOBS Act, otherwise known as AI JOBS Act.

After his internship, Herman worked not only on our campaigns, but oversaw phone bankers and canvassers as our district coordinator.

Herman has since graduated from the University of Florida, receiving his bachelor's degree.

In May of this year, he spearheaded a group advocating for restaurant workers to unionize against unfair treatment and pay, and now currently holds a position with the Sierra Club as their organizing representative for the Wildlands Red Tide Campaign.

Herman continues to be an advocate for other Dreamers and hopes to fight the structural inequities and racism stemming from colonization.

Another amazing DACA recipient, an amazing Dreamer from my district is Mariana Castro.

Mariana came to the United States from Peru at the age of ten with her mother, leaving her brothers and father behind.

While her mother worked three jobs to keep food on the table for her family, Mariana excelled as a central Florida high school student. In tenth grade, she realized that regardless of her excellent grades, involvement in hundreds of community service hours, that

her undocumented status would impact and potentially stop her academic career.

Opportunity shined when DACA became a reality a few months before her graduation. She graduated from Celebration High School in 2013, received the highest academic scholarship in the State, and chose the University of Florida to be her home for the next 4 years.

At the time, even with DACA, she was denied an in-state tuition rate in college and her scholarship was revoked.

Mariana paused her education and fought for the in-state tuition, that I previously mentioned in my speech here tonight, for undocumented students in the State of Florida.

Her efforts came to fruition, as she stood side by side with so many other Dreamers when we finally passed the in-state tuition bill for Dreamers 1 year later.

And what happens when we give someone like Mariana an opportunity? She returned to the University of Florida, where she graduated with a degree in biological sciences this past May.

As a DACA recipient, Mariana was unable to receive any state scholarships, Federal aid, or loans.

While being a full-time student, she worked 40 hours every week at restaurants to pay for her education out of pocket.

During her college career, she interned at my congressional office in 2018 and was later hired as a legislative aid in the Florida Senate.

She also helped start university programs that provide visibility to undocumented students, most recently institutionalizing a training for professional staff about relevant immigration laws that affect the student body, while raising funds for the Out of the Shadows scholarship, a scholarship specifically for undocumented students in Florida that she oversaw for 3 years.

Over the years, she received several awards for her advocacy in the immigrant community, including being named the only female Outstanding Student Leader in her graduating class.

Today, Mariana Castro serves as the central Florida business manager for Impact Fund, working to change public policy around immigration through coalition building and bipartisan action.

Mariana plans to obtain a combined JD and PP degree and continue to use legislation and grassroots organizing in order to fight for disenfranchised communities in the Nation.

Also, as the Civil Rights Action Task Force chair for the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, I wanted to talk a little bit about the issues before the Supreme Court.

We know, with the DACA program, that the Federal Government created a promise, a promise to these eventual DACA recipients that their deportation would be deferred, and it was for an obvious reason: there are over 10 million

undocumented immigrants in the United States, and these were the lowest priority for deportation because they were young people who came here through no fault of their own, that knew no other country other than this one. And I can tell you, as we heard from Mariana's story and from Herman's story, that they are indeed ambitious, and they are indeed contributing to our society.

So a promise was made to these young people, and they relied on that promise, to their detriment, by giving their information to the Federal Government every 2 years periodically. And then from there, the Federal Government should be estopped from being able to use that to deport them, to single them out in any way.

If the program is going to be wound down, it should be wound down in an ordinary and orderly fashion. And I think those who are in the program should at least be able to stay in the program, or if not, not be targeted by the Federal Government. So I think it is right that the Federal Government should be estopped from using this information to the detriment of these young people.

Then we look at the reasoning, and it is hard to see under either a rational review or a higher scrutiny that the court may apply, that there is enough information to strike down this executive order. It was done through the ordinary process.

And now the reason they originally proffered was simply that it was unconstitutional. You know, that is the purview of the Supreme Court. That is not a reason for an administration to be able to strike down a program. They actually have to give a reason beyond their own opinion that something is unconstitutional. Of course, the Trump administration didn't do that in all their procedures to try to end the law.

Then eventually in the appellate courts, they tried to come up with some statistics, come up with some justifications after they had already gone through the process, and now they want to put the genie back in the bottle. Now they want to say, "Well, our rationale was given in the appellate court, so we should be able to just use that from the beginning," and that is not the way the process works.

Even then, it was the same xenophobic misrepresentations that we hear about these young people being spouted to this day.

□ 1815

Whether it is under estoppel or whether it is simply under the court's scrutiny, I think it is pretty clear. We hope the Supreme Court will decline to end the program or, at the very least, have an orderly termination of it, protecting these kids and stopping the Federal Government from hurting them any further.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BARRAGÁN), the second vice

chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for having this special hour and for all of his work.

As the Supreme Court deliberates this administration's attempt to end the DACA program, it is easy for the average American to see the term "DACA" as a case, a policy, a set of immigration statistics, or a political bargaining chip. But DACA is 700,000 living, breathing people who consider America to be their home, the only home most of them have ever had.

Over 8,000 of these DACA members live in my district, and I consider them amongst my most valued and vulnerable constituents. They are our brothers and sisters, our friends and schoolmates, our neighbors and workmates, and, in my instance, my cousin. And in my case, they are also dedicated and talented interns working in both my district office and right here in my Washington office.

Irene Garcia-Brizuela is a DACA recipient who has lived in the United States since she was 10 years old. She is earning her bachelor's degree at Cal State Dominguez Hills. She is a part-time barista, as she is working hard in my San Pedro office.

Even as a young girl, Irene dreamed of working in our government. Very sadly, she worries that interning for me might be as close as she will ever come because she can't work for the government she respects, reveres, and pledges allegiance to without proof of legal residency.

Juan Hinojos is an outstanding member of my D.C. office as an intern. He has lived in this country since he was 2 years old. Of course, it is the only home he has ever known. When Juan graduates Arizona State, he will be the first in his family to do so.

Juan just spent two nights camping out to be in line to get inside the Supreme Court so that he could witness yesterday's oral arguments, not only as an observer wanting to witness history, not only as an appreciator of our government in action, but as a participant whose fate may rest in the hands of that moment.

These are just two examples of the wonderful and meaningful contributions that all DACA recipients make to our communities, our economy, our society, and our American culture.

Our Nation made a promise to them that if they work hard, study hard, play by the rules, and follow the law, they can become American citizens and travel as far as their talents take them. It is quite literally the promise of America.

Madam Speaker, I want to say to DACA recipients nervously awaiting their fates: You are valued. You are appreciated. You are loved. You belong here.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleagues for joining me here today. I would like to reiterate the important message that we are here to support Dreamers.

This is not impossible, Madam Speaker. In 2002, while I was a Member of the New York State Assembly, the lower house of the New York State Legislature, we passed instate tuition allowing undocumented college students the ability to pay instate tuition. We did that with a Republican Governor and with a Republican-led Senate. Just last year, New York State again passed the Jose Peralta Dream Act.

So it could be done, Madam Speaker.

Just recently, I was speaking to a group of Dreamers and advocates in Battery Park, New York, having the Statue of Liberty as a backdrop to our rally. I told them to be cognizant of what they are doing because, very often, those who write history, those who write the chapters and the annals of history, are not aware that they are doing it.

I asked them to pay close attention to what they were doing because they are, in fact, the protagonists. They are the leaders of this movement. When you see their faces, and you see what they want to do for our country, it is almost impossible to say no to them. I told them to be very cognizant of their effort because, in fact, they are an army of goodwill.

They may not have weapons in their hands, and they may not wear military gear, but they are an army of goodwill that I think is fighting every day for the soul of America. And 20 or 30 years from now, they will be able to tell their children and grandchildren that they were successful, that they were critical. They were the protagonists, the leaders of a movement led by an army of goodwill that saved America and what it stands for.

Madam Speaker, we will continue to call on our colleagues in the Senate to take up and pass the American Dream and Promise Act so that the lives of over 800,000 Dreamers no longer hang in the balance.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

IMPEACHMENT OF PRESIDENT TRUMP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BYRNE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. BYRNE. Madam Speaker, the House of Representatives has been the scene of serious chaos, not only today, but for weeks.

Unfortunately for the American people, we have nothing to show for it. We have issued more subpoenas from this House than we have had bills that have actually been signed by the President.

We haven't been working on the U.S.-Mexico-Canada free trade agreement that President Trump worked so hard to negotiate. We haven't been working on funding the military or bipartisan legislation to lower the cost of pre-

scription drugs. No, 100 percent of the energy of this place has been devoted to the impeachment of President Trump.

There has been a lot of noise, a lot of rumors, and a lot of confusion about exactly what has happened and what is going on, where we are and how we got here. There is a reason for that.

You see, Madam Speaker, by House rules, impeachment is under the jurisdiction of the Judiciary Committee. The Judiciary Committee has a great big hearing room just across the street. That is where an impeachment inquiry is supposed to take place. But we aren't holding hearings there because Speaker PELOSI doesn't want them there.

Instead, the impeachment charade has been taking place in a small, restricted room, two floors underground, below this Chamber, deep in the bowels of the Capitol. That room is known as the SCIF. The SCIF is a very important room because it is where Members of Congress hear about our country's great secrets. You can't bring a cell phone in there. You can't bring a camera in there. Most importantly, the public can't go in there.

Democrats made a big spectacle about holding their first public hearing today. They act as if they are making some great, virtuous action to bring forth transparency, as if they are operating with the utmost integrity. The truth is that today's hearing is little more than a public showcasing of witnesses they have already interrogated and vetted in that little room to ensure they will only say what the Democrats desire.

You see, Madam Speaker, by conducting impeachment in that little room, Speaker PELOSI and ADAM SCHIFF knew that the American people wouldn't know what was going on, what was being said.

But right outside the SCIF, that tiny room, you will find dozens of cameras and news people. Here they are, you can see, talking to ADAM SCHIFF.

ADAM SCHIFF and his staff have been feeding these reporters bits of information for weeks. For weeks, we have been flooded with reports of so-called explosive things that supposedly have been said in this small, secret room.

Madam Speaker, there is a rule of the House that every Member of Congress has the right to at least watch a committee hearing. A couple of weeks ago, some of my colleagues and I decided that we wanted to know what was really going on in that small, little room. So, we entered the SCIF, that little room, simply to watch. ADAM SCHIFF immediately stopped the proceedings, and he refused to proceed until we left.

There is another rule of the House that says the records of committees are the property of the House, and every Member is entitled to review them. There is a reason for this rule. Those records don't belong to ADAM SCHIFF. They don't belong to Speaker PELOSI. They don't belong to me. They belong to the American people.

So, again, I went back to the SCIF, back to that little room. I showed them that House rule and informed them that I wanted only to read the transcripts from these secret proceedings. But Chairman SCHIFF's staff said no. They would not follow the rules of the House. They would not let me read them. They said: You will get them later, along with everybody else, when we say so.

Finally, they started releasing the transcripts—in a way that fit their agenda. Madam Speaker, I have been reading these transcripts as they come out. I have also been reading what the mainstream media has to say about them. Would you believe it? The mainstream media is saying exactly what ADAM SCHIFF wants them to say. Almost none of them are talking about the other side, about President Trump's defense.

To make sure the American people have the facts, I felt compelled to come down to the floor tonight to talk about the things that, if you are not reading these thousands of pages of materials, you might have missed.

There have now been about 3,000 pages of testimony released. Despite many different opinions of those pages, there is universal agreement that Ukraine is one of the most corrupt countries on Earth. You see, Madam Speaker, Ukraine, like many former Soviet countries, is controlled by oligarchs. These guys have almost all the wealth, most of the industry, and pretty much all the political power.

Corruption is so bad in Ukraine that many American businesspeople refuse to do business there because they don't want to deal with the notorious oligarchs.

It has been the policy of Republican and Democrat Presidents, for nearly 30 years, that Ukraine must end corruption, must adopt the rule of law, and must take away power from the oligarchs. You have had Ukrainian Presidents come and go but, time and time again, things seem to stay the same.

During the 2016 Presidential election, we know that senior members of the Ukrainian Government were very much on Secretary Clinton's side. Don't take my word for it. You can pull this article, which was written in the final days of President Obama's Presidency. You can look at it yourself.

That is not some rightwing website. That is Politico. It might be a little hard to read, but here it says Ukrainian "officials are scrambling to make amends with the President-elect"—President Trump—"after quietly working to boost Clinton." The Ukrainian Government was boosting Secretary Clinton.

Thanks to ADAM SCHIFF's Star Chamber rules, we still have not gotten to hear the President's side of the story. But it should come as a surprise to no one, as some Democrats have pretended, that President Trump did not want to devote his valuable, limited